tion of Rural Health Facilities, for providing referral services for high risk pregnancies, essential and emergency obstetric and new born care; Primary Health Centres are also being strengthened to promote institutional births; Traditional Birth Attendants are being trained to make home delivery clean and safe.

Measures for improving maternal health also include:

(i) Expansion and improvement in services for safe Medical Termination of Pregnancy; a programme for detection and treatment of Reproductive Tract Infections and Sexually Transmitted Diseases; round the clock delivery services in at least selected Rural Hospitals; referral transportation for high risk pregnancies for poor families through the Gram Panchayats, etc.;

To supplement Government's efforts, NGO's are being involved in a significant way, to improve outreach services and to enssure community participation in Maternal Health Programmes. Drugs for Pregnant Women and Mothers are also being supplied through the Primary Health Centres and the Sub-Centres.

New Vaccine for Hepatitis-B

1866. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Technology Development Board has developed a new vaccine for Hepatitis-B;

(b) if, so whether new vaccine will be prices at Rs. 140/- as compared to imported vaccine priced at Rs. 280/-;

(c) whether Government will include this vaccine in the child welfare programmes in line with Pulse Polio and other such vaccines; and

(d) if 100% free vaccine is not possible, whether the cost will be subsidised for Hepatitis-B Vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir. Technology Development Board has supported the Development and Commercialisation of Hepatitis-B Vaccing manufactured by M/s. Shantha Biotechnic Pvt. Ltd, which is developed in its in-house R&D Unit.

(b) As per information received from Department of Science & Technology, the sale price of the new vaccine is Rs. 212/- (inclusive of all taxes) for one single adult dose.

(c) and (d) The estimated cost of including Hepatitis-B vaccine in the Immunization Programme will be around Rs. 525 crores per annum, and for the IX Plan period it will be around Rs. 2625 crores. Additional resources of this size are not available within the Department of Family Welfare. Planning Commission has indicated that funds required be made up by internal Resource Mobilization as additional allocation would not be possible.

Communication Network through Electronic Means

1867. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received an application for establishment of a communication network through electronic means for rapid exchange of information submitted by the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for establishment of such a network together with the reasons for delaying it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir. However, it has been reported by Regional Institute

of Medical Sciences, Imphal, that such a proposal is being processed by them.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Blood/Blood Products

1868. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government or its agencies import blood or blood products from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years alongwith quantity of blood or its products imported and the countries from where imported, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have seen the media reports about tainted blood imported to the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) It is a fact that M/s Panacea Biotec, New Delhi had imported Human Albumin 20% Injection, manufactured by M/s Albovina Gmbh Austria, during the years 1994—96. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi has reported that the samples from the consignment of this Drug were tested, and found free from HIV antibodies. M/s Bharat Serum & Vaccines Bombay has not imported Albumin 20% Injection from the above manufacturer.

देश में कन्या शिशु मृत्यु दर की घटनाओं में वृद्धि होना

1869. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि यद्यपि भारत में शिशु मृत्यु दर में गिरावट जारी है तथापि कन्या शिशु मृत्यु दर बाल शिशु मृत्यु दर की तुलना में बढ़ रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इसके कारणों का पता लगाने के लिए ऐसी घटनाओं का मूल्यांकन किया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या गर्भस्थ भ्रूणों का लिंग निर्धारित होते ही कुछेक मामलों में कन्या भ्रूण को गर्भ में ही समाप्त कर दिया जाता है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ऐसे मामलों में क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री दलित एज़िलमलाई): (क) से (ग) भारत के महापंजीयक की नमूना पंजीयन पद्धति के द्वारा उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार, नवजात बालिका तथा बालक दोनों की मृत्यु दर में कमी का रूझान रहा है। 1994 में 73 से 1995 में 76 तक एक वर्ष के दौरान, नवजात बालिका मृत्यु दर में मामूली वृद्धि हुई थी जबकि 1985—1995 की अवधि के दौरान नवजात बालिका मृत्यु दर में समग्र कमी नवजात बालक मृत्यु दर में 96 से 73 तक 23 प्वाइंट की कमी की तुलना में 98 से 76 तक 22 प्वाइंट रही है।

(घ) और (ङ) कोई भी प्रमाणिक और सही आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। फिर भी यह विदित है कि भारतीय समाज में लड़के की तीव्र पसंदगी के कारण कभी-कभी बालिका भ्रूणों के गर्भपात करवाए जाते हैं। प्रसवपूर्व नैदानिक तकनीक (विनियमन और दुरूपयोग निवारण) अधिनियम, 1994 में पारित किया गया है और यह पहली जनवरी, 1996 से प्रभावी हुआ है। इस अधिनियम के तहत प्रसव पूर्व नैदानिक तकनीकें केवल विशेष परिस्थितियों में ही अनुमत्य है। भ्रूण के लिंग का पता लगाने पर रोक है और इस कानून का उल्लंघन करने पर दंड निर्धारित किए गए हैं।